



The Chinquapin

VOLUME 14 Issue 1

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Fall 2014

The Official Publication Of The Royal Oak Nature Society

NATURE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Membership for the 2014/15 season begins now and ends in August, 2015. To see if you owe membership dues for the 2014/15 season, please check either your street address label or e-mail subject line.

There are four membership levels. General Membership is free and with it, you get Nature Society schedule updates e-mailed to you at least once a month. Associate Membership cost \$5 per year and gets you the above benefit along with four newsletters, "The Chinquapin", e-mailed to you quarterly. If you want, we can mail a hard copy to you instead. **With e-mail, the print quality of the newsletter is better and the photos are in color.** Supporting Membership is \$10 & up per year and gets you all of the above benefits plus being listed a supporting member in our newsletter. Patron Membership is \$50 & up per year and gets you all of the above benefits, listed as a patron member in our newsletter, an invitation to our pre-Dream Cruise picnic at Gunn Dyer Park and one free ticket to our annual fundraiser. If you want to be an Associate, Supporting or Patron member, please fill out a

(Continued on page 2)

Nature Society's 9th Annual Fundraiser

On Friday, April 11th, 2014, we held our 9th Annual Soiree/Fundraiser at the Royal Oak Elks Club from 7 to 10 pm. If you didn't make it this year, you missed a great party.

We want to thank everyone who helped us out by bringing in the tasty food that was served to all of our guests. There were appetizers and desserts along with a cash bar. Our awards ceremony began at 7:45. See page 2 for all of our award winners. For the second year in a row, we announced the winner of our Young Poets Contest. Check out page 2 for more information about the poets contest. After the ceremony, our guests continued to bid on over 130 various silent auction items. The Nature Society wants to also thank everyone who donated an auction item or cash this year to this year's fundraiser. A

list of those donors can be found on page 3. Our appreciation also goes out to everyone who volunteered their time to this event.

A special thank you goes out to our six "guest table" sponsors. They included last years sponsors, **the Royal Oak Garden Club, Fifth Avenue, Miner's Den, and the Royal Oak Historical Society** plus two new ones for his year, the **Royal Oak Woman's Club and Natural Community Services LLC.**

For our upcoming **10th Annual Fundraiser**, please be sure to mark us down for Friday, **April 24, 2015.** It will be held again at the Royal Oak Elk's Club. If you haven't been to any of our previous fundraisers, you should come out and see for yourselves what you have been missing these past years.

Message From the President

by Don Drife

Our small band of dedicated volunteers studies, maintains, and shares our two nature parks. We can always use more help.

The parks continue to surprise us. In the last year, we have found Lesser Duckweed in Dragonfly Pond. As a result of solving the drainage problem at Cummingston Blue and Yellow Violets bloomed for the first time in recent years. Jack-in-the-pulpit, Purple Cress, Hispid Buttercup, Wild Geranium, and Spring Beauty are increasing in numbers. The improved drainage has allowed the invasive plant Coltsfoot to move in. A quarter acre patch is spreading near Crawfish Pond. We found a single, non-flowering, Red Trillium at Cummingston. When the population was declining in the 1970s, Howard Miller and I counted 3,500 plants. I hope our Citizen Scientist group (see p.4 for more information) will conduct a thorough census next year.

We found Giant Swallowtail larva eating the Prickly Ash at Tenhave. The first activity of our new Citizen Scientist project will be to census the park for this cool larva.

Mary Fredricks and her Friends of Fungi group continue to survey the park for fungi and any other interesting organisms they can find. I encourage you to attend one of her walks and gain an appreciation for these fascinating creatures that most people just walk by. My blog contains posts on Split Gill Fungus (<http://www.michigannatureguy.com/blog/2013/11/28/split-gill-fungus/>) and Poison Ivy Rust (<http://www.michigannatureguy.com/blog/2013/12/07/poison-ivy-rust/>).

Consider visiting and "liking" the Royal Oak Nature Society Facebook page

(Continued on page 5)

The Train, the Bear and the Tree

by Samuel Pierce

Chaffin and puffing
A train is entering the wood
Going left, going right
Left, right
Right, left

I can hear a sound...
A bear on the track!!!
Slowly crossing over just in time
For the train to go

Chuffing and puffing
Birds are swirling around
Scared by the train
The bear is puzzled

Oh no!!
A tree grew on the track!
The breaks are squeaking
The birds are chirping
The bear is roaring

And then

Silence
The only sound is the wind
The passengers step out
And find themselves lost
in a greenish wet wonderland forest

(Continued from page 1)

membership form (page 5) and mail it along with a check to the Royal Oak Nature Society. Please list other household members you want included as Nature Society members (no extra cost).

Through your donation (tax deductible), you will be helping to cover the costs to produce our newsletter and will also be assisting in funding educational programs that we provide.

If you only want to be a General Member, please e-mail us the information asked for on our membership form (page 5) & send that information to: naturesociety@romi.gov

Non-members are still welcome to come to our monthly speaker programs as well as our nature walks. Those programs and walks are, and always will be, free to anyone who enjoys learning about nature.

2014 YOUNG POETS CONTEST

The Nature Society held our Young Poets Contest in April, 2014. Because April is National Poetry Month, we thought this would be the perfect time to introduce the concept of art and nature to young people.

The contest was open to all students in the Royal Oak Public Schools in grades 3 through 5. Their subject had to be nature themed. The quality of the work submitted was again outstanding. The judges did not have an easy task. We had four judges this year – Anton Anderssen, Diana Wing, Sharon Dargay and Lauren Merriam. Each judge selected one finalist and then they all chose two favorites from the four finalists and one winner.

The 2014 winner was **Samuel Pierce**, a third grader at Addams Elementary. His poem, "The train, the bear, and the tree", is printed on this page for you to enjoy. Samuel's and the other finalists' poems can be found by going to this link:

http://www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/portal/webfm_send/3112

This contest is an annual event and we look forward to see what the 2015 entrants have for us.

2014 ROYAL OAK NATURE SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS

The 2014 Presidents Award winner is Mary Fredricks: Mary began taking nature photographs in 2010 and purchased her first fungi guidebook the following year. She explored the nature parks and then began to attend our walks. Since then things have just 'mushroomed' for her. She began sharing her expertise on our nature walks and then began to lead some of them. Thanks to her knowledge, and interest we now have Friends of Fungi, a sub-group under the Royal Oak Nature Society. They have their own programs and nature walks. They explore the many different types of fungi and slime molds found in the Royal Oak parks and surrounding area. The Friends of Fungi held its first walk in July 2013 and began having indoor programs in November 2013. We thank Mary for her willingness to share her love of and knowledge of fungi.

2014 Chinquapin Award Winner is Nicole Murawski: Nicole Murawski teaches Earth Science and Physics at Royal Oak High School. For the past four years, Nicole has the Nature Society walk her Earth Science class from the High School to Dragonfly Pond in Tenhave Woods. During the walk between the school and Tenhave, a running discussion on the geographical and human history of the land both the school and the woods is on occurs. At Dragonfly Pond, we have discussions on vernal ponds, the life found within them and their ecological position they occupy in the natural world. Nicole has also been sending student to science related programs throughout the community for extra credit. The Nature Societies programs fall within this group and due to this we have had a large increase in the number of High School age people attending. One of the main goals of the Royal Oak Nature Society is to provide education on the local natural world to the public. Nicole has been one of those helping us to further that work.

SPEAKER PROGRAMS

*Our monthly general meeting/speaker programs (September to May) is held at the **Royal Oak Middle School** which is located at 709 N. Washington. We meet in the auditorium or the "Gathering Place", both of which can be reached via the school's southeast entrance. Our June program is held at the Senior/Community Center located at 3500 Marais. At our monthly Wednesday meetings, we present speaker programs that are usually slide shows focusing on various natural history topics. If you watch nature programs on PBS or the Discovery Channel, this is better because you can meet with the speakers afterwards and ask questions. The general meeting begins around **7:30 pm**, with the speaker program following several minutes later.*

"Singing Insects of Michigan" speaker program is being held on **September 3rd**. Not all the sounds of nature come from birds and frogs. The singing insects are one of the most dominant sounds of our summer days and nights. Susanne Greenlee; Oakland County Parks-planning department (Tech. Aide), will give an introduction to the most common insect noisemakers-- the crickets, katydids and cicadas. You'll learn how to identify the species by listening to audio recording of their calls with their accompanying slides.

"Starting an Urban Apiary" speaker program is being held on **October 1st**. Bees play a critical ecosystem service function in that they pollinate many of our crops, thereby increasing our production of food. From spring through fall, dozens, if not hundreds, of bees can be seen daily at the University of Michigan Dearborn's Environmental Interpretive Center's rain gardens and it's Community Organic Garden. What visitors might not

realize is that the Center is home to a small number of managed beehives on its grounds. University of Michigan -Dearborn students can take part in all of the activities involved in urban beekeeping, including hive start-ups, seasonal hive maintenance, and the annual harvest of honey in late summer. Come learn about the University of Michigan Dearborn's Environmental Interpretive Center's urban apiary (place where bees and beehives are kept) from Dr. David Susko, Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

"A Seasonal Guide to Michigan Mushrooms" is being held on **November 5th**. Phil Tedeschi is the President of the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club. His hobby for nearly 40 years has been mushroom hunting. Come and learn from Phil's experiences in the hunt. Find out what mushrooms we have here in Michigan, their identification and uses.

This is the list of all of our auction & food donors plus those who donated cash to this year's fundraiser. We could not have not had a successful 2014 fundraiser without you.

Jay & Deb Anderson; Annette's Hair Studio & Spa; Aileen Barkume; Aquarium Shop; Carol Bradshaw ; Bark-A-Bout Pet Resort; Batteries Plus; bd's Mongolian BarBQ; Billings Lawn Equipment; Don Calder; Judge Terrence Brennan Briggs Gallery; Diane Bruse; Buttons Rent It; Helen & Connie Cost; Café Muse; Laurine Cybulski; Kim Ciolek City of Royal Oak; Clover Stones; Chris Ethridge; Pat & Ray Coleman; Amanda Felk; Decades; Mary Fredricks Dos Manos; Jackie Galesky; Laura Gogola; Don & Joyce Drife; Jay & Patty Dunstan; Bernadette Ethridge Ewe-nique Knits; Frentz & Sons Hardware; Green Toe Gardens; Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival Gustafson Morningstar Dentistry; Katherine & Larry Howell; Kristine Hill; Colleen Hilzinger; Mitzi Hoffman Nora Iverson & John Talbot; Holiday Market; Hollywood Super Markets; Rick Karlowksi; Dianne Howey Jan's Pottery; Jazzercise Fitness Center of Royal Oak; Mary Kleiss; Art & Winnie Kowalski; Ladybug Shoppe Leon & LuLu's; Jeannine Lesch; Alice & Arthur Marotti; Lily's Seafood Grill; Lockharts BBQ; Ann Manor Bonnie Michalak; Judge Derek Meinecke; Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle; Miner's Den; Cathy Mueller; Moosejaw Moti Mahal; Motor City Auto Spa; Bob & Kelly Muller; Heather Muller; Amber Nardecchiaoir Leather Norm's Field of Dreams; Paint Party Royal Oak; Paper Back Trade In; Pet Supplies "Plus" Representative Sandy Levin; Karen Pettke; Royal Oak Brewery; Royal Oak Golf Club; Stagecrafters Mary Ellen Stanley; Dena Serrato; Jeff Synowiec; Town Tavern; Representative Jim Townsend; Trader Joe's Vinsetta Grill; Denise & Fred Vultee; Sherry Toggweiler; Water Works Theatre Company; Janice Wheelock Ted & Nancy Vickers; Whole Foods Emily Welch' Wild Birds Unlimited; Zumba Mexican Grille; ; Sandy Wilkins Craig & Donna Will

NATURE WALKS

CUMMINGSTON PARK: Park is just east of Meijers. Park and meet at Leafdale & Torquay

TENHAVE WOODS: Park is just east of Royal Oak High School. Park in Marais/Lexington lot and meet at the Lexington entrance (300 feet east of parking lot). For the Owl Hoots & Full Moon walks, park and meet at the Marais/Lexington lot.

ARBORETUM: Park and meet on the north side of the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais)

Wearing boots is recommended in the winter and spring months. Using insect repellent and dressing appropriately is advised from late spring to the end of summer.

"**Arboretum in Early Fall**" is being held at the **Royal Oak Nature Society Arboretum** on Sunday, **September 21st**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. Meet at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center (3500 Marais) parking lot-north end. Take a tour of the meadow in our developing arboretum (behind the Community Center) and see what fall wild flowers are blooming.

"**Fall Color**" is being held at **Cummingston** on Saturday, **October 4th**, beginning at **10:00 am**. Park and meet at Leafdale & Torquay. This is the most beautiful time to take a look at our nature study areas.

"**Fall Color**" is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Sunday, **October 19th**, beginning at **2:00 pm** and again on Sunday, **October 26th**, beginning at **2:00 pm**. Park at the Lexington & Marais lot & meet at the Lexington entrance.

"**Geological Features**" is being held at **Tenhave Woods** on Saturday, **November 8th**, beginning at **10:00 am**. Park at the Lexington & Marais lot & meet at the Lexington entrance.. What did this area look like thousands and millions of years ago? Why is Royal Oak so flat, or is it?

Royal Oak Nature Society Friends of Fungi Fall Schedule:

September: Mushroom Walk on Saturday, **September 27**, at **Cummingston Park** beginning at **10:00 a.m.**

October: Mushroom Walk on Saturday, **October 25**, at **Tenhave Woods** beginning at **10:00 a.m.**

November: "Photographing Fungi" program is being held at the **Royal Oak Senior Center** (3500 Marais) on

Wednesday, **November 12th, 2014** beginning at **7:00 p.m.** This program is being presented by Mary Fredricks, Royal Oak Nature Society Mycologist & professional photographers, Pat & Ray Coleman.

For more information about the Friends of Fungi, please check out the Friends of Fungi link:

<https://www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/portal/Community%20Links/Nature%20Society/Announcements/friends-fungi>

Royal Oak Trails Committee

We are seeking 15 to 20 individuals willing to work on maintenance of the trail system at both nature parks. Much of the work is simply moving logs and branches of fallen trees. No special skills are needed except the willingness to spend a few hours in the park and drag branches. Anyone high school age or older is welcome. We do this work mainly on weekends and in the evening. If you are willing to work, please send me an email at don@michigannatureguy.com. When a tree comes down, we will send out an email with the date and time of the work session. Please consider helping us.

Citizen Scientist

by Don Drife

The Nature Society is forming a group of citizen scientists who are interested in researching the nature parks. No special skills are required to aid this group except for curiosity. We will teach you what you need to know. It might be how to identify an insect, plant, or fungi. We might be counting, mapping, or measuring. On a typical nature walk, our leaders primarily share their knowledge. Here we intend the group to seek knowledge by making original observations and collecting data. Here is our first question. How common is the Giant Swallowtail Butterfly in Tenhave Woods?

For the last forty years (on and off), I have searched for the larva of the Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*) which feeds on Prickly-ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*). Prickly-ash occurs in Tenhave Woods, and I have seen adult Giant Swallowtails in the woods for many years. Bob Muller and I were identifying and measuring trees in the Tenhave swamp forest when I found three larvae, the first that I have ever seen. They resemble bird droppings. We want to census the Giant Swallowtail by looking for their larvae on the Prickly Ash. We will meet at **Tenhave** (Lexington gate), Sunday, **September 7, at 2:00 p.m.** Please come and help us.



Giant Swallowtail



From left to right: Bob Muller; Samuel Pierce, (Young Poets Contest Winner) , Don Drife & Mary Fredricks (President's Award)

(Continued from page 1)

(<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Royal-Oak-Nature-Society/228095233882566>). All our events are listed and many photos are shown. This is a place where you can post your photos from the parks and maybe get them identified if you need to know what they are.

One of the highlights of the year for me was our annual open house. We saw 30 species of birds including: Broad winged and Rough legged Hawks, Northern Harrier, Solitary Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, and both Kinglets. The Orange-crowned Warblers were displaying and several males flashed their orange crowns. This was the first time I had seen the crowns on these drab little warblers. A Red-tailed Hawk put on a nice show by catching and eating several American Toads. We watched this bird for an hour. Mourning Cloak, Gray Comma, and Red Admiral butterflies flew over the Sandbar Trail. Bloodroot plants by the thousands were in full flower. Other spring wildflowers blooming were Purple Cress, Spring Beauty, Yellow Trout Lily and Dutchmen's Breeches. It was a memorable day in the woods.

We raised around \$4,000 at our 9th annual fundraiser. If you have never been to one of our fundraisers, then plan to attend next year. (If you have attended, come again.) This is another event put on by a small number of volunteers.

The Royal Oak Nature Society continues to promote and protect Royal Oak's natural heritage and we have fun while doing it. Come and help us. Volunteers are always needed and welcome.

Please check out our Facebook page & "like" the Royal Oak Nature Society.

Page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Royal-Oak-Nature-Society/228095233882566>



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Royal Oak Nature Society Membership Form

Please make check payable to: **Royal Oak Nature Society**
MEMO: Membership

Mail completed form & check to:
Royal Oak Nature Society
1600 N. Campbell Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48067

Names (household members): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

1 year Household Membership
(September-August)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General (free) | Receive newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (\$5) | by: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting (\$10 & up) | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular mail OR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron (\$50 & up) | <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail |

NATURE SOCIETY TEAMS

Please contact us if you would like to become actively involved with one or more of our teams:

Stewardship: Maintains a trail system and enhances the overall park experience at Tenhave Woods, Cummingston Park and the Arboretum.

Communications: Publicizes organizational activities to the general membership and public through various mediums and performs any other forms of communications required by the board.

Education: Provides outreach and liaison to outside individuals, groups and schools to promote environmental education.

Fundraising: Is responsible for the fund-raising efforts of the Nature Society, which includes the coordinating and organizing of the Annual Spring Fundraiser & other fund-raiser programs approved by the board.

Programming: Is responsible for setting up the speaker programs, workshops and all of the nature programs within Cummingston Park, Tenhave Woods and the Arboretum.

Ways & Means: Investigates means of grant solicitation and then follows through accordingly.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Don Drife (248-528-0479)

Vice President & Communication: Ted Vickers (248-549-5366)

Treasurer & Ways & Means: Helen Cost (248-549-9423)

Recording Secretary: Nancy Vickers (248-549-5366)

Education: Chris Ethridge (248 229-9335)

Program: Bob Muller (248-398-0195)

Stewardship-Arboretum: John DeLisle (248-672-7611)

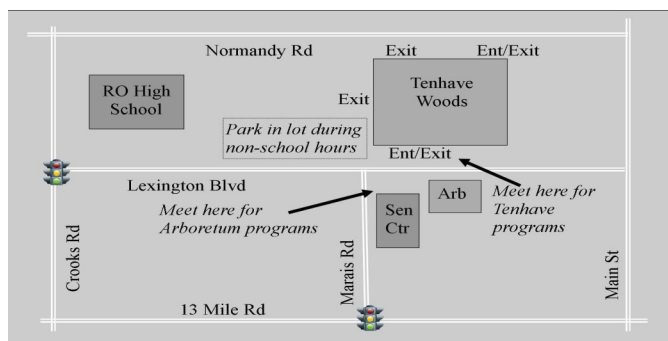
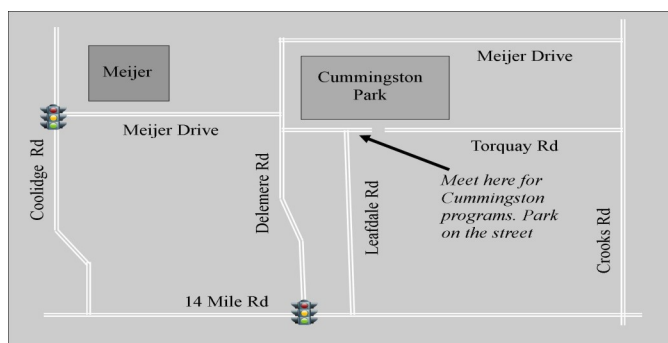
At Large: Dena Serrato (248-542-2820)

Troop/Pack 1627 Representative & Engineer: Richard Stoll (248-398-2437)

Cummingston Park, Tenhave Woods, and the Arboretum



Traffic Light



To locate and print out Tenhave Woods & Cummingston Park trail maps, please go to our web site (listed below under our tree logo), link on to "Park Locations" and then "Map for park trail locations"

6

The Royal Oak Nature Society is a nonprofit education and stewardship group working within the city of Royal Oak's two nature parks, Tenhave Woods and Cummingston Park. Our mission is to foster awareness and usage of these two natural areas. We accomplish this by providing stewardship for the continuing improvement and maintenance of them. In addition, we are in the process of creating an arboretum in Worden Park East. We also offer a wide range of natural history educational programs.

The Royal Oak Nature Society
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www.romi.gov/nature



FIRST CLASS MAIL